

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 EB-07

TRSE-00 AID-05 /105 W

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R 171415Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7265

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10413

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN LEBANON

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1. ARAB LEAGUE (AL) FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN LEBANON
CONCLUDED EVENING OCTOBER 16. STATEMENT ISSUED BY CONFEREES
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ARAB COUNTRIES REGARD ANY ISRAELI AGRESSION ON
LEBANON AS AGRESSION AGAINST ALL ARABS.

B. ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD EXTEND "MATERIAL AID" TO GOL TO
HELP COMPENSATE FOR LOSSES INCURRED DURING RECENT EVENTS.

C. ARAB LEAGUE SUPPORTS GOL EFFORTS REACH COMPROMISE AND
END CRISIS.

D. AL STRESSES SUPPORT FOR LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND UNITY
OF LEBANESE PEOPLE.

E. SYG RIAD IS INSTRUTCTED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH
GOL AND INFORM ALL MEMBER STATES OF DEVELOPMENTS; HE IS ALSO
AUTHORIZED SUMMON ARAB MEETING SHOULD GOL DETERMINE THIS TO BE
USEFUL.

2. STATEMENT BY FONMIN FAHMY PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PRESS STRESSED
PRESIDENT SADAT IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH FRANJIYA AND KARAME
AND IS FOLLOWING WITH GREAT INTEREST LEBANESE EVENTS. FAHMY
AFFIRMED EGYPTIAN BELIEF IN UNITY AND SAFETY OF LEBANESE TERRITORY
AND GOE'S DETERMINATION CONTINUE HERE EFFORTS END BLOODSHED.

3. LATE LAST EVENING SYG RIAD HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH
HE STATED CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY MEETING WERE BEST ATTAINABLE
AT THIS STAGE, IN VIEW SENSITIVE AND COMPLICATED LEBANESE SITUATION.
HE SAID PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON DOES NOT CONSTITUTE
PROBLEM BECAUSE IT IS GOVERNED BY EXISTING ACCORDS AND BECAUSE
THERE IS CONSTANT CONTACT BETWEEN GOL AND RESISTANCE. KEY TO
SITUATION, HE SAID, IS HELD BY LEBANESE; ARAB STATES CAN ONLY
OFFER ADVICE AND MORAL AND MATERIAL AID.

4. ON SUBJECT OF "MATERIAL AID"MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE, RIAD
SAID LEBANON HAD NOT ASKED FOR SUCH AID AND DID NOT PRESENT
BALANCE SHEET OF LOSSES INCURRED. PRESS REPORTS THAT IT WAS
FAHMY WHO MADE FORMAL PROPOSAL REGARDING "FINANCIAL" AID, AND
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THAT SUCH AID WILL BE DETERMINED THROUGH LEBANESE BILATERAL
CONTACTS OR THROUGH EFFORTS TO BE MADE BY SYG. GOL FONMIN TAQLA
TOLD REPORTERS THAT CALL FOR "FINANCIAL" AID WAS BROTHERLY GESTURE
AND DESCRIBED MEETING AS POSITIVE STEP.

5. COMMENT: AL SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL WHO WAS PRESENT AT CLOSED
SESSION TELLS US THAT ATMOSPHERE WAS EXCELLENT THROUGHOUT.
NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE ATTRIBUTED THIS FRATERNAL ATMOSPHERE TO

ABSENCE OF SYRIANS, PALESTINIANS AND LIBYANS. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS "MATERIAL" AND NOT "FINANCIAL" AID WHICH RECEIVED APPARENT SUPPORT FROM RICH ARABS. (AS WE HAVE REMARKED PREVIOUSLY, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING RICH ARABS BALK AT MAKING CASH PAYMENTS TO CORRUPT LEBANESE POLITICIANS.) HE CONFIRMED THAT DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON WAS AVOIDED DURING DEBATE.

6. REGULAR ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MORNING OCTOBER 18, MOST FONMINS ARE REMAINING IN CAIRO TO ATTEND, THROUGH AMIR SA'UD WENT HOME LAST NIGHT. AL OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO US AGENDA INCLUDES POLITICAL ISSUES PENDING FROM LAST SESSION, INCLUDING ARAB AND WORLD SITUATION, ARAB-EC DIALOGUE, AND DETERMINATION OF DATE FOR 8TH ARAB SUMMIT. HE NOTED IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS MIGHT INSIST UPON DEBATE ON SINAI II, BUT SO FAR HE HAD NO INFORMATION THAT THIS WOULD COME ABOUT. FURTHERMORE, AL HAS RECEIVED NO NOTIFICATION THAT KHADDAM PLANS TO PARTICIPATE. BAHRAIN AND OMANI FONMINS WHO MISSED SPECIAL SESSION ARE DUE TO PARTICIPATE IN REGULAR SESSION SATURDAY.

7. IN GENERAL, WE AGREE WITH RIAD'S VIEW THAT SPECIAL SESSION TURNED OUT AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED IN VIEW DELICACY OF LEBANESE SITUATION. ABSENCE OF SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS CONTRIBUTED TO CALM ATMOSPHERE AND EGYPTIANS WERE CERTAINLY PLEASED TO HAVE AVOIDED ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE WITH KHADDAM. CONFERENCE GAVE GOE OPPORTUNITY UNDERLINE AGAIN ITS CONCERN, AS ARAB LEADER, WITH LEBANESE TRAGEDY.
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